Copied from Linn's History which was printed in 1883.

William F. Reynolds was born in Miflinville, Columbia Co. Pa. June 9, 1813. At the age of sixteen he commenced the mercantile business in Berwick, and soon after removed to Danville, the latter place seeming to offer a wider field for his growing enterprise. In 1841 he was induced to visit Bellefonte by the suggestion of a friend that it was a place where success must surely follow a vigorous and energetic prosecution of his chosen occupation. Success did attend his faithful and untiring devotion to business to such an extent that in 1856, weary of the details and annoyances incident to the trade, he was able to retire with a very handsome fortune, ($550,000 --ERQ) and for Three years found great pleasure in the management of his iron and landed interests.

In 1859 he founded the banking house of William F. Reynolds and Co., which for nearly a quarter of a century has been the leading private bank in Central Pennsylvania. To the conduct of the banking business he has always given personal attention, receiving most valuable assistance from his partner, George W. Jackson.

In addition to the banking business he is largely engaged in manufacturing flour, owning the Phoenix Mills in the borough of Bellefonte, now one of the most complete roller mills in the state, and the Rock Mills in Benner township.

He has made large investments with a well-directed judgment in some of the fnest farms in Centre County, to which, when not engaged in financial matters connected with his bank, he now devotes much of his time, ambitious not only to have them productive and profitable, but also to have them beautiful and attractive in all their appointments.

Much might be said of the well-known generosity of Mr. Reynolds, but as his charities have been unostentatious and to a great extent of a private character, --"the left hand not knowing what the right hand did", -- it may not be proper to mention them. Of two things we are permitted to speak. In the year 1877, the Episcopal Church being much in want of a parsonage, he erected a handsome and convenient house, which he presented to the church to be used forever for that purpose. In October 1879, he was the owner of one of the largest as well as the most beautiful springs in the State, situated in the borough of Bellefonte, from which the town took its name, and from which, under the Smith deed of 1807 and the Harris deed of 1823, it had the right to use "only the amount of water that could be supplied through a three-inch pipe, and for domestic purposes only." Seeing and appreciating the fact that the town was rapidly growing, that the water from this spring was of incalculable value to the citizens of Bellefonte, provided it could be used without restraint or limitation for all and every purpose, Mr. Reynolds, animated by a most generous and noble spirit, which was properly acknowledged at the time, and will ever be gratefully remembered, conveyed all his right, title, and interest in and to the spring and certain grounds surrounding it to the Town Council as a free gift to the people of his adopted town.

Mr. Reynolds is an earnest Democrat, at times taking an active part in politics, but never has had any personal political ambition.

For thirty-nine years he has been a member of the vestry and a warden of St. John's Episcopal Church. Always deeply interested in the welfare of the church he has given largely of his means to secure its prosperity, and to adorn and beautify the house of the Lord.